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ASSOCIATED PRESS

29 March 1982

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AAM-Spy Case:410

AATTORNEY TO BE QUESTIONED ON CIA DISCLOSURE

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NASHINGTON (AP) - A U.S. ATTORNEY FROM CALIFORNIA WAS CALLED ON THE CARPET Monday by top Justice Department officials and the possibility they will recommend he be fired for publicly disclosing the identity of a key CIA source in Mexico and Central America. Department sources, who declined to be identified; said William H. Kennedy, the U.S. Attorney in San Diego, had been summoned to Washington. The sources said Kennedy will be asked to provide an explanation for disclosing last week that CIA and top Justice deficials have blocked an indictment of the source, Miguel Nassar Haro.

Nassar Headed Mexico's Federal Security Agency Until January.
Kennedy told the San Diego Union Last Week He Had Recommended FROSECUTION OF Nassar in November for an Alleged involvement in A CAR-THEFT RING.

THE INCIDENT PRESENTS PARTICULAR PROBLEMS FOR THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION. UNE OF ITS HAJOR LEGISLATIVE CAMPAIGNS SUCCEEDED EARLIER THIS MONTH IN OBTAINING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR A LAW IMPOSING FINES OF UP TO \$15,000 AND PRISON TERMS OF UP TO THREE YEARS FOR PUBLICLY DISCLOSING THE IDENTITY OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENTS, EVEN IF THE INFORMATION CAME FROM PUBLIC SOURCES.

THE LEGISLATION; NOT YET SIGNED INTO LAW BY THE PRESIDENT; HOULD APPLY TO ANYONE WHO HAD "REASON TO BELIEVE", THE DISCLOSURE MIGHT HARM U.S. INTELLIGENCE AND WHO HAD ENGAGED IN A PATTERN OF ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO IDENTIFY COVERT AGENTS.

"Kennedy's actions are getting a quick and thorough review. We're very interested to hear his justification for this;" said one Justice Department source; who added that it was still an open question whether Kennedy hould be fired.

Kennedy: 50: HAS AN ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY IN SAN DIEGO UNTIL NOMINATED FOR THE TOP POST IN NOVEMBER BY PRESIDENT REAGAN. HE SERVES AT REAGAN'S PLEASURE.

Spokeshen Ton DeCair of the Justice Department and Dale Peterson of the CIA declined to comment on the case. Kennedy could not be reached for comment.